

U.S. Needs Answer on JFK Killing; Oglesby

Radical author Carl Oglesby said today if people want to return to real democracy in America, the nation must purge itself of the questions that still surround the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Oglesby is in town as part of a symposium on the assassination and CIA involvement in American politics. He was interviewed by Capital Times staff members this morning. A transcript of that interview will be printed in the March 20 Monday section of this paper.

The Jack Kennedy killing is the essential question here because that killing tells you more about the deterioration of government than any other single event and poses in the utmost clarity the need for democracy to assert itself," Oglesby said.

He contended that the questions surrounding the assassination were not simply liberal or conservative issues.

"Anyone who has the slightest regard for the basic traditions and customs of doing politics in this country — right, left, center, up, down or whatever — has a profound reason to want to get at the bottom of the Kennedy killing," he said.

He said there did not need to be much argument over whether it was a left wing conspiracy or a right wing conspiracy as long as everyone could agree that there were unanswered questions.

"As long as that's true, until we do know, the whole system is poisoned and we're like Hamlet in Denmark with this putrefaction rotting away underneath the state, unburied kings underneath the stairs, usurpers on the throne and we, the Hamletine people, really not able to look what we have to do in the face — afraid of trying to find subtle ways to make things get better," he said.

Oglesby said he did not think trying to guess the names of the



Carl Oglesby

Kennedy assassins — assuming one believes Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone — was a useful pursuit for conspiracy buffs.

"The available information doesn't warrant naming names of the assassination cabal," he said.

"I will generalize about the politics of the assassination," he explained, "and will talk about what Kennedy was doing in the period of the New Frontier and who he offended and the tempo at which he gave these offenses."

Among the examples Oglesby gave were the attempts by Kennedy to reform the CIA, his support for Martin Luther King, his challenges to big steel companies.

He said he did not think the assassination was perpetrated by the CIA or FBI or Secret Service, as some theorists allege.

"I believe there is some assassination cabal that exists behind individual agents who have penetrated the FBI or the CIA much as ordinary mobsters would penetrate the local police," he said.

Oglesby predicted several

layers of confusion that will exist when investigation into the assassination gets under way. "It's not as if there's just one coverup that we can shatter and see through to the realities," he said.

He said once national consciousness accepted the notion of a conspiracy at Dallas, some would argue it was a communist conspiracy, others would argue it was a Rockefeller conspiracy and others would argue it was the CIA.

But Oglesby indicated he believed it was worth the confusion and the pain of probing into the assassination to get to the truth.

He covered a variety of other topics during the interview, discussing his theory of American elites as composed of northeastern Yankees and southwestern cowboys struggling with each other, the meaning of Watergate and the future of the radical movement in America.

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